

Hatch School,
Corry, Pennsylvania

HABS No. Pa.-515

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PHOTOGRAPHS,
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 5-Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey,
Karl E. Morrison, District Officer
319 Marine Bank Bldg., Erie, Pennsylvania

WARS
PA
2-1-1909

HATCH SCHOOL
Corry, Pennsylvania, Erie County

Owner.

School District of Corry, Erie County, Pennsylvania.

Date of Erection

1870.

Architects

A. V. Powell and Leo Helmle.

Builder and Contractor

S. L. Leach.

Present Condition

Fair.

Estimated Height

Two stories.

Materials of Construction:

Brick, pine, modern wiring, clear white glass.

Other Existing Records:

Histories of Erie County, biography.

Additional Data-Bibliography:

Corner stone.

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania; Chicago, Warner Beers and Co. 1884.

A Twentieth Century history of Erie County, Pennsylvania-Chicago-1909. The Lewis Publishing Co.-John Miller, historian.

History of Erie County, Pennsylvania, 2 Vols. Historical Publishing Company 1925. Topeka--Indianapolis, by J. E. Reed (John Elmer).

Nelson's biographical dictionary and historical reference book of Erie County, Pennsylvania, Erie, 1896. Two thirds of this book by Benjamin Whitman. From the press of Wilson, Humphryes and Co. Fourth Street, Logansport, Indiana.

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Directly after Corry, Pennsylvania was incorporated as a borough, an election was held on August 18, 1863 to elect a school board, which resulted as follows: Three years, G. H. Coney, R. Morgan; two years W. H. Doan, J. L. Hatch; one year L. J. Tibbals, L. Rockwood. The people of this borough wanted schools and education for their children and before long they had a school house which had been erected on Concord Street transferred to the borough. But they were not satisfied and the town grew up so fast that the people decided to have a real school house. In 1869 lots were purchased between Congress and Bond Streets, east of Wright Street, for the erection of a large brick edifice.

But it was found necessary to request a special act of the legislature of the state so that the amount necessary to build this school could be raised, as the amount they could collect by taxation was not sufficient. This act was passed in 1870 authorizing an additional tax of seven mills. The contract for the building was awarded to S. L. Leach for \$21,500. The building was completed in 1871 and including heating, furnishing and seating cost \$30,000. It was named in honor of J. L. Hatch, who was one of the first school directors and served as secretary of the Board of Directors during the first eight years of the Board's existence. He was also on the building committee for three of the largest school houses in Corry, Pennsylvania, one of which was the Central High School named in his honor, "Hatch School."

Mr. John L. Hatch was a farmer, dealer in stock and real estate, a member of the City Council a number of times. He was born in Springwater, Livingston County, N. Y., December 14, 1831. He was also mayor of the City of Corry in 1886.

The Hatch School is still used, but in process of remodeling. It originally was of three floors but later was remodeled into two which were in use up to about 1936.

The main entrance on Wright Street was reached by a flight of six steps leading to two doors in each corner of a recessed entrance, flanked by two massive brick pillars. These pillars and the top of the building had been lavishly ornamented with brick work forming the cap of the pillars and the cornice of the building. Two windows with semi-circular fan light transoms of glass surmounted the two sash windows. Each sash was of two lights of clear glass. Building corner pilasters ornamented similar fashion. In the entablature a central rose window 6' diameter of clear glass surmounts the entire recessed entrance part. Dentil trim between first and second floors. On each side of the entrance are large rectangular rooms. The first floor windows of these rooms have the same style of window as is in the recessed entrance. To the rear of the building on each side are also large rectangular rooms. The second story windows did not have

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the semi-circular fan shaped transoms but were finished with elliptical top.

On the south side facing Congress Street is another recessed entrance with portico supported by two cast iron columns 9 1/2' high. Pointed roof, brick pillars pointed and covered with cast iron cap.

Basement flat stone, stucco, cement plaster cover. Wide entrance halls, stairways. Plain entrances on north and east sides. All entrances approximately in center of each side. Especially noticeable feature is the recessed nook with hemispherical top behind the teacher's desk, with entrance door to coat room. Windows of all rooms had four lights of glass. Wainscoting of varnished pine.

Amos Scott Carter

Approved

Karl Emmerich Dist. off.
July 31, 1936.

Rev. Oct. 13. 1936 — H.R.